

OceanTeacher Global Academy: sharing expertise in a coordinated way

Delgado Claudia, Aditya Kakodkar, and Peter Pissierssens

UNESCO/IOC Project Office for IODE, Wandelaarkaai 7/61, B-8400 Oostende, Belgium
E-mail: claudia.delgado@iode.org; a.naik-kakodkar@unesco.org; p.pissierssens@unesco.org

The OceanTeacher Global Academy Project is establishing a global network of Regional Training Centres and will use this network to increase national capacity in coastal and marine knowledge and management. It will do so by (i) promoting the establishment of Regional Training Centres (RTCs) as well as their close collaboration through advanced information technology; and (ii) further developing the OceanTeacher Learning System. The OceanTeacher Global Academy will change training from a 'north to south' culture to north-south, south-south, and south-north model. Whereas training has been traditionally based on experts from developed regions visiting and teaching developing country students, the OceanTeacher Global Academy will promote the expertise available in many developing regions.

Specifically, the OceanTeacher Global Academy will:

- (i) Promote the establishment, and assist with the start-up, of (RTCs) that will plan, organize and implement training courses that are of relevance and serve needs within their region;
- (ii) Promote the use of local experts as lecturers and training assistants by the Regional Training Centres;
- (iii) Promote the collaboration between the (RTCs) by enabling (through advanced information technology) lecturers from multiple regions to contribute lectures;
- (iv) Further develop the OceanTeacher Learning Management System to cover multiple IOC (and associate) programmes.

The OceanTeacher Global Academy builds upon and expands the existing OceanTeacher Academy based at the IOC Project Office for IODE in Oostende, Belgium, to a truly worldwide training facility. It will provide a programme of training courses related to IOC programmes, contributing to the sustainable management of oceans and coastal areas worldwide, and relevant to Member States in the regions. A suitable governance structure will be created. This will lead to the following benefits:

Increase the annual number of trainees that can participate in OceanTeacher Academy courses.

1. Increase the availability/involvement and the level of expertise of trainers.
2. Alleviate the costs and other drawbacks of long-distance traveling by trainers / lecturers and trainees.
3. Increase the focus on local issues while keeping a global perspective.
4. Increase self-driven capacity development, including local training expertise.

The OceanTeacher Global Academy will further promote collaboration and expertise exchange through new internet-based technologies such as video conferencing, video streaming etc. between the Regional Training Centres (RTCs).

Key Deliverables

1. Regional Training Centres established, operational and resourced locally (including infrastructure, workflow and management) in, *inter alia*, Europe, Africa (IOC-Africa), Latin America & Caribbean (IOC-ARIBE), Indian Ocean (IOC-INDIO) and Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC);
2. Competent resource persons available in all regions;
3. Well documented project governance structure established;
4. Courses organized and content provided through the OceanTeacher Learning Management System (OT LMS) and students trained in topics related to, *inter alia*, IODE, IODE/OBIS, IODE/ICAN, HAB, ICAM, GOOS, Tsunami, JCOMM, attended by students from one or more regions simultaneously;
5. Annual reports from Regional Training Centres on progress, including performance metrics;
6. Final Impact assessment of the Project.

A network of 10 RTC's has been identified spanning from America (Colombia, US), Africa (Senegal, South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya), Asia (India, China, Malaysia) and Europe (Belgium). These will develop joint training courses targeting national, regional and international training needs in marine sciences in a coordinated way.